

Message Text

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TAGS:UNGA, WFC, PORG

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: SECOND COMMITTEE, ITEM 61, RESOLUTION
ON THE REPORT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (L.15 AND L.18)
REF: USUN 5459

1. REPLACEMENT OF WORDS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BY WORDS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTION (ANNEX V,
REPORT OF SECOND WFC) WOULD GIVE US NO PROBLEM BUT WE MUST
POINT OUT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TITLE WAS EARLIER INSISTED
UPON BY LDC REPRESENTATIVES IN AD HOC WORKING GROUP WHICH
REVIEWED PROPOSED WFC RULES. AT SESSION OF AD HOC WORKING
GROUP, SMALL BUT VOCAL GROUP OF LDC'S QUESTIONED AUTHORITY
OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONFER TITLE OF EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR ON HEAD OF WFC SECRETARIAT, TO APPOINT HIM WITHOUT
A SPECIFIED TERM OF OFFICE OR WITHOUT CONSULTING THE WFC
MEMBERS. LDC'S OBVIOUSLY WISHED TO LIMIT THE STATUS OF
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JOHN HANNAH AND RAISE THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORLD FOOD

COUNCIL ITSELF WITH REGARD TO NAMING THE HEAD OF THE SECRETARIAT. THIS IS CONTRARY TO USUAL PROCEDURE IN REGARD TO UN ORGANS.

2. THE U.S., ALONG WITH OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE UN LEGAL ADVISOR, OPPOSED THIS POSITION BUT AGREED THAT SINCE THE SYG HAD APPOINTED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PURSUANT TO UNGA AUTHORITY ANY CHANGE WOULD REQUIRE UNGA ACTION.

HENCE WE SUPPORTED THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AS THE ONLY LEGAL MEANS OF APPROACHING THE PROBLEM, BUT WERE NOT SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN TITLE OR TERM OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOR OF THE NECESSITY OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE WFC AND THE CONCURRENCE OF THE UNGA ON THE ISSUE. SINCE WE ACCEPTED OVERALL TEXT OF WFC RULES OF PROCEDURE AS THEY CAME FORTH FROM WORKING PARTY AND ENCOURAGED OTHERS TO DO SO IN ORDER GET ON WITH WFC WORK, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO TAKE ANY LEAD WITH THE PHILIPPINES. SHOULD THEY DEVELOP MAJOR SUPPORT FOR A CHANGE IN TITLE WE WOULD SUPPORT.

3. ON SECOND MATTER, I.E., DELETING WORDS "SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY" IN SAME PARA OF DRAFT RESOLUTION, WE WOULD PREFER DELETION BUT SUGGEST MISSION CONSULT WITH UN LEGAL ADVISOR PAUL SZASZ WHO WORKED CLOSELY WITH WORKING PARTY (AND U.S.). ROBINSON

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